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### EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Appellate Court, when it so gratuitously and intelligently reversed the decision of the Supreme Court in the case *ex parte* Gerino, and **NEEDLESS** in the Arwine case, stated that our **ANXIETY**. medical practice act was unconstitutional, not only did a rather stupid thing, but also made a lot of trouble for the secretary of the State Society. Of course, the Board of Examiners promptly appealed the Arwine case to the Supreme Court, and, equally of course, the Supreme Court as promptly reversed the Appellate Court and sent the case back for a rehearing. What new foolishness the Appellate Court may subsequently be guilty of, no man can say; for any judicial body that will go out of its way to display its ignorance by calmly reversing a decision of the Supreme Court, may be expected to commit almost any edifying "stunt" in mental gymnastics. We thought that this had been fully explained in the December JOURNAL, but apparently many of our members are too busy to read their JOURNAL carefully, and, having heard of the first decision of the Appellate Court, and not of its subsequent upsetting, they have the mistaken impression that our medical law has been declared unconstitutional. This is most emphatically not the case. The fundamental points in the law were fully sustained by the Supreme Court in the now celebrated case, *ex parte* Gerino. In that decision the Supreme Court held that the Legislature has the right to delegate its appointing power and that it was constitutional for the Legislature to instruct the State medical organizations to appoint or elect the persons who should serve on the Board

of Medical Examiners and carry out the police provisions of the law. In the same decision the Court also held that the Legislature could not intelligently fix the standards of requirement, as these were subject to natural change from time to time; the Association of American Medical Colleges, on the other hand, would be ever in touch with advances in medical science and could the more satisfactorily fix these standards of requirement. These two points are the fundamental points of the medical practice act—and they have already been declared constitutional by the Supreme Court. Therefore, do not worry about what the *Los Angeles Times*, or any other daily paper that attempts to know all about medicine and things medical, may print. Do not allow any one to alarm you by saying that our law is unconstitutional or that it may be declared so, for it has already been passed upon and its constitutionality sustained.

This is not the case, however, with the law passed in 1901 regulating the practice of osteopathy. That law has recently been declared **OSTEOPATHIC** unconstitutional. (**Superior** **PHYSICIANS.** Court, Los Angeles; W. P. James, J., Dec. 28, 1906.) The law authorized the board to issue a certificate to any osteopath presenting a diploma from a college of osteopathy recognized by the Board of Examiners, but did not define *what qualifications a college should have in order to be so recognized*. The decision specifically states that not a single portion of the act is in question, but the entire act, and it is declared null and void. As a result of this, the osteopaths have applied to the Legislature now in session for a new law; in fact, at least two bills have been introduced up to the time of writing and we understand that a third is to be presented. Now this opens up a pretty wide field. It is a well-known fact that whatever the expressed intentions of the osteopath may be, when he is licensed to practice osteopathy he really begins to practice medicine. He dubs himself an osteopathic physician. A physician is one skilled in physic; in the administration of remedies. Furthermore, at least one of the osteopathic bills already introduced gives the practitioners of that cult the authority to sign death certificates, etc., and makes them come under the supervision of health boards, etc., the *same as any other school of medicine*! Two Attorneys-General of this State have filed opinions that an osteopath is not a practitioner of medicine, nor a physician. There was nothing, in the law which has just been declared unconstitutional, which required an applicant to practice osteopathy, to exhibit his knowledge or training or proficiency in osteopathy; he merely had to file a diploma from some college approved by the board. And yet it is claimed by all colleges of osteopathy that they teach the same fundamental branches as are taught by schools of medicine, and that they only differ in the matter of *materia medica* and the practice of osteopathy. If this is the case, why not have the same fundamental standards of educational

sidered with grave suspicion, and only to be made after the elimination of all the many possible etiological factors, toxic in origin.

Altogether, while the practitioner who purchases this volume need have no doubt as to the accuracy of its information, there is no particular reason, except for Poynton's brilliant article, why it should replace in our libraries the standard works of Rotch, Holt or Ashby and Wright; while for the medical student a smaller book such as this excellent manual by Cotton is more useful. With fascinating style, Cotton has managed to present the main principles of pediatrics in a small space. Especially to be admired is his handling of the section on infant feeding. To any student who spends an attentive hour over this chapter, the subject will cease to be in the least complicated or mysterious, and on graduating, such a student will be able to give much terse and definite instruction to any mother and he will have gained for himself a sane view of the importance of the subject to the practitioner.

In spite of some omissions, such, for instance, as the failure to mention sarcoma of the kidney in childhood, etc., this manual of Cotton may be heartily recommended to the student of medicine. The discussion of the physiological differences between child and adult is so full and lucid that the reader immediately grasps the reasons that pediatric practice is so distinct and special a department of medicine.

L. P.

**The Eye and Nervous System; Their Diagnostic Relations.** By Various Authors. Edited by Wm. Campbell Posey and William G. Spiller. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and London. Cloth, \$6.00.

Neurology and ophthalmology are so intimately connected that the first step, which a neurologist has to take, to arrive at a diagnosis, is a most minute examination of the visual apparatus. On the other hand the ophthalmologist is very often first consulted for a disease affecting the nervous system which manifests itself in ocular symptoms.

Notwithstanding this we have not before had a book covering these two branches of medical science. The present text-book attempts to cover the ground completely and we may say with the greatest success. The different chapters have been written by men who have taken a prominent part in the clearing up of the questions treated. A very excellent book has resulted from the collaboration of these men; the fact that information which formerly had to be collected from several text-books is presented in a very complete and concise manner, will render the book most valuable to the general practitioner as well as to the specialist.

In the introduction we find a chapter on the anatomy of the eye and the connections of the optic nerve with the lower and higher visual centers. The psychology of the visual act has been most excellently exposed in the following chapter by C. K. Mills. Methods for the examination of the eye, the disturbance of the extraocular and intraocular muscles, affections of the fifth, seventh and cervical sympathetic, and the diseases of the retina are treated in the following chapters.

The eye symptoms of nervous affections are discussed by Spiller in connection with an excellent review on tumors of the brain; ocular changes in bulbar and pseudobulbar affections are described by Taylor. Spinal affections and the eye symptoms caused by them are fully reviewed by Weisenburg. Several chapters are devoted to functional disturbances of the eye in neuroses.

A very important part of the book is reserved for the description of neurotic conditions caused by errors of refraction and unbalance of the extraocular muscles and their treatment. The last chapters are devoted to the surgical treatment of intracranial

pressure; tremors, reflexes, gait and degeneracy are discussed in the last chapters.

The book gives exhaustive information on all points which may come up in general as well as in special practice. In a following edition which we are sure will soon be necessary, the value of the book may be increased by treating the relations of systematic disease to eye changes. (Nephritis, diabetes, pernicious anemia, syphilis, etc.)

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